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coordinator@meen.org.uk

Don't forget:

MEEN runs on project funding but we continue to deliver our newsletter, maintain our website and run free network events for educationalists interested in Education for Sustainability.

If you would like to support MEEN's work please consider becoming a member: <https://www.meen.org.uk/join/membership>

or make a donation at: <https://www.meen.org.uk/donations>

MEEN would like to thank our current funders R4GM/SUEZ, BUPA and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

St Catherine's RC Primary: The Planeteers

Alongside creating a School's Climate Action Plan St Catherine's RC Primary school also set up a group of keen Eco champions – The Planeteers. The team began their journey focusing on waste reduction and started by looking at paper waste. Not all the classes had a recycling bin, 'so we did classroom presentations and encouraged classes to create their own paper recycling bins'. Next, they decided to look at food waste in school. As the pupils wrote: The Planeteers wanted to make more changes to the food waste situation, so we purchased a compost bin and lots of green caddies to collect fruit waste.



We placed the compost bin in our school peace garden and decided to plant some bushes to hide it. We also went to Didsbury's Dragons Den, and we were awarded with £2400 as we came second due to the amount of persuasive language we used. We visited Manchester University to talk to students about their carbon footprint and what we could do to reduce it and spoke about our work at a conference. Some of us went to Parrs Wood High School to give a presentation at Cllr Linda Foley's Deeds Not Words climate event. After that we held our own Eco Fair where we swapped books and toys, had pre-loved uniforms and taught many people about

budding flowers and climate change. The next step is to introduce more raised beds and get planting for Spring so the school grounds have more greenery and flowers. Finally, we would like to thank our sustainability leader Mr. Westbrook, Dr Lock from MEEN (Manchester Environmental Education Network, the rest of Planeteers and everyone who has helped us.



(Thanks to Eva, Lucy and Rose for this article).



**MEEN's Eco
Schools
Green Teach
Meet**

**Bringing together
eco coordinators
and educators for
sustainability.**

**With a focus on
creating School
Climate Change
Action Plans,
and Eco Schools
new carbon
calculator, and the
practice of tree
therapy!**

**On Friday
3rd May 2024
doors open at
3.30pm – 5.30pm**

**Hosted by Dial
Park Primary
School
All welcome to
attend**

**To book your place
email:
coordinator@meen.org.uk**

**Network News
Climate Ambassadors
launch in the NW**

This 2-year project is funded by Department for Education to give all education settings (Early Years, Primary, Secondary, FE, HE and SEND) in England free access to expert support to develop and deliver impactful Climate Action Plans. It covers four themes: Decarbonisation, Adaptation and Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Education and Green Careers.

**CLIMATE
AMBASSADORS**

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning
and the University of Reading

Operating through 9 regional hubs Manchester Metropolitan (MMU) is coordinating the NW hub which launches in May.

This collaborative venture builds on existing expertise and networks to support and improve the capability of education settings to make and deliver Climate Action Plans. It will be coordinated with its 'sister projects': The National Education Nature Park, Sustainability Support for Education (Digital Support Hub), and Let's Go Zero. See <https://climateambassadors.org.uk> / for info on how to register interest as a setting or climate ambassador, or contact Cormac Lawler: c.lawler@mmu.ac.uk.

**Network News
A Manc Green Festival
and a Lanc conference**

Manchester is having a Green Schools Festival in June with events for staff and pupils, covering different climate change themes. On **Thursday 6th June, East Manchester Academy, 3pm-6pm** there are workshops covering catering, sustainable site practices, and climate education for staff from any education setting. For information and to sign-up follow this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0dEJbzBQK2>

Other, already fully booked, events include **Friday 14th June, the Running out of Time Relay** which will travel to 9 schools across Greater Manchester whilst on **Friday 21st June, St Margaret's Primary School** is hosting 10 local primaries for a climate lesson and workshops. Finally on **Monday 24th June** Greater Manchester schools involved in the University of Manchester's **School Citizen Assembly** will gather at the Manchester Museum.

Meanwhile **Lancashire's annual Sustainability Learning Conference** is being organised for the Thursday 27th June at Blackburn Rovers Football ground. Aimed at KS3-5 and with a Sustainability STEM challenge go to https://www.school-sustainability.org/files/Conference_Information_2024.pdf for further details.



MEEN offers bespoke advice to schools and Eco Coordinators from across Greater Manchester.

MEEN also runs twilight network meetings for Eco Coordinators to share good practice, information and the latest new and ideas in sustainability education.

Go to:
www.meen.org.uk
for more information.

MEEN can be found on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/meen.org.uk

And at:
www.twitter.com/meenorguk

Get in touch! We want to hear your stories.

Network News

Think Air

Think Air is an innovative Greater Manchester research project focusing on air quality, inequalities and cognitive development in primary school children.

Greater Manchester has amongst the worst air quality in the UK with children being at high risk as air pollution can affect children's health and their ability to learn.

A research team at the University of Manchester are reaching out to primary schools in Greater Manchester to help shape a project to:

- Measure air quality in your school
- Investigate how air quality affects learning
- Provide advice about improving air quality in your school

They would like to hear what is happening about air pollution in your school (even if nothing is happening!), and what outcomes you would like to see from this research.

Participation is voluntary, confidential, and you are free to withdraw at any time: they would initially like to meet with the head.

If you would like to find out more about this project, which is funded by University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI) please email Dr. Nicola Gartland nicola.gartland@manchester.ac.uk

Network News

WOW Living Streets

As a part of addressing local air quality schools can join WOW, the walk to school challenge from Living Streets.



WOW helps reduce congestion outside the school gates, while increasing safety and helping pupils move more. WOW schools typically see a 30% reduction in car journeys taken to the school gate and a 23% increase in walking rates. The model is simple: pupils report how they travel to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker recording who walks, wheels, cycles or scoots to school. Those doing so at least once a week are rewarded with monthly WOW badges.

There are some free places available for Greater Manchester schools this year so to find out if your school is eligible simply complete the short form found [here](#).

Every year WOW has different badges and this year's theme is 'The British Nature Walk' which aims to bring pupils closer to the nature found across Britain.



Funding from

The Recycle for Greater Manchester community fund (2024 – 2025)

This fund supports the GM Community and Voluntary Sector to deliver projects which prevent, reuse or recycle household waste, promote sustainable use of waste and resources and generate wider social benefits for the community of Greater Manchester.

To work in one local authority the minimum grant is £2000 and the maximum grant £10,000. There is also an innovation fund to work across GM which is for up to £20,000.

Deadline 31st May 2024

For further details go to:
<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/community-fund/>

National News

Teach the Future: teach the teachers

Teach the Future are offering a free Climate Education Activity to all Secondary school students. As a student-led climate education campaign they offer students the opportunity to be in the driving seat of their education by teaching their teachers.

TEACH THE FUTURE

By providing free training, support, and resources students are empowered to deliver a 1-hour climate change workshop with their teachers. Students gain confidence and green skills by taking part and are able to see themselves as agents of change in their community.

Teachers who attend a student-led workshop get the rare opportunity to receive student-led CPD, hear their students' perspectives on climate change, and are encouraged to make a climate education pledge. Those who pledge will receive access to our Teacher Resource Library which contains lesson plans and activities that link climate to the curriculum across a wide range of subjects.

Read about the experiences of [Beamont School](#) and [Lesmahagow High School](#) on their website, and [sign up today!](#)

International News

UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership

In a process that began at COP27 in 2022 UNESCO has been developing The Greening Education Partnership which is endeavouring to embed Education for Sustainable Development globally by 2030. Structured around the four key pillars of transformative education the aim is to get 'every learner climate ready'. The process began with an agreement that countries signed up to the partnership must tackle these four areas: Greening schools; Greening learning; Greening capacity and readiness and Greening communities. These pillars are identical to the Curriculum, Campus, Community threads of the Sustainable Schools programme, but in addition, includes a specific requirement to deliver pre-service and in-service staff training. UNESCO will be producing a Quality Standard for Green Schools (released this Summer) as guidance to help schools become climate ready which will include a list of accreditation bodies that will meet the standard.



They have also set up ESD-Net <https://www.unesco.org/en/education-sustainable-development/esd-net> For more general information go to: <https://www.un.org/en/transforming-education-summit/transform-the-world>